

## Message Text

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16

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 OMB-01 AID-20 EUR-25 NIC-01 DRC-01 /155 W

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R 291130Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2815

INFO CINCPAC

DIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 6939

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, TH

SUBJ: ALLEGED RTA INVOLVEMENT IN ANOTHER BAN NA SAI TYPE IN-  
CIDENT

1. THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER THE NATION ON 27 APRIL CARRIES HEADLINE STORY OF ANOTHER STUDENT-DISCOVERED ALLEGED BURNING OF VILLAGERS HOMES BY RTA FORCES IN THE VILLAGE OF NAI HIN KONG, NA KAE DISTRICT OF NAKHON PHANOM PROVINCE. THESE LATEST CHARGES MADE AGAINST RTG SUPPRESSION FORCES CAME FROM VILLAGERS NOW RESIDING AT THE ROM KLAO RESETTLEMENT AREA OF MUKDAHAN PROVINCE AND WHO WERE PREVIOUS RESIDENTS OF BAN NAI HIN KONG IN NA KAE DISTRICT.

2. DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY CENTER OF THAILAND (NSCT), MR. VIRAT SAKJIRPAPONG, WHILE IN ROM KLAO WITH OTHER NSCT MEMBERS VISITING A STUDENT GROUP OF ACTIVISTS ON A DEMOCRACY PROPAGATING MISSION, WAS CONTACTED BY FORMER RESIDENTS OF BAN NAI HIN KONG AND LEVELED THEIR CHARGES. THE VILLAGERS CLAIM THAT 57 OUT OF 71 OF THEIR HOMES WERE BURNED ON DECEMBER 6, 1973 BY SOLDIERS FROM THE 301ST INFANTRY BATTALION OF THE SECOND ARMY BASED IN KALASIN PROVINCE. THE VILLAGERS OF BAN NAI HIN KONG ADMITTED THAT SOME OF THE RESIDENTS WERE COMMUNISTSYMPATHIZERS AND HAD PROVIDED FOOD AND INTELLIGENCE  
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TO THE CT. HOWEVER, THEY CLAIM THAT VILLAGERS COOPERATING WITH

THE CT WERE DOING SO ONLY UNDER DURESS SINCE THE RTG WAS NOT ABLE TO PROVIDE THEM WITH SECURITY FROM THE COMMUNISTS. ACCORDING TO THE VILLAGERS, THE COMMUNISTS TOOK OVER THEIR VILLAGE ON OCTOBER 14 AND HELD IT FOR 18 DAYS BEFORE RTG FORCES WERE ABLE TO MOVE IN AND DRIVE THEM OUT. DURING THE PERIOD OF CT CONTROL THE COMMUNISTS DISMISSED THE VILLAGE HEADMAN AND HIS DEPUTY. THEY THEN FORCED THE LOCAL SCHOOLTEACHERS TO ADOPT AND TEACH MARXIST-LENINIST DOCTRINE IN THE LOCAL SCHOOLS.

3. COMMENT: THE VILLAGE OF NAI HIN KONG IS LOCATED ASTRIDE THE TRI-PROVINCE BORDERS OF NAKHON PHANOM, KALASIN AND SAKON NAKHON AND IN AN AREA OF NA KAE DISTRICT SUBJECT TO CT INFLUENCE AND CONTROL. IN EARLY DECEMBER OF 1973 THE RTA CONDUCTED OPERATIONS IN THE AREA AGAINST KNOWN CT INFLUENCED/CONTROLLED VILLAGES. THIS LATEST INCIDENT COULD RESTIMULATE PRESS AND PUBLIC OPINION INTEREST IN RTG CONDUCT OF CI OPERATIONS TO INCLUDE DEMANDS FOR THE RELEASE OF THE GOVERNMENT REPORT OF FINDINGS ON THE PREVIOUS BAN NA SAI CASE WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN DIVULGED. OF PARTICULAR INTEREST WILL BE THE REACTION OF THE RTA LEADERSHIP TO FURTHER STUDENT/PRESS INITIATIVES IN MONITORING AND CRITICIZING RTG/RTA ALLEGED MISCONDUCT IN CARRYING OUT SUPPRESSION OPERATIONS AGAINST THE CT.  
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